

Abstract of the Disclosure

Electronic teleconferencing configurations use one or more remote microphones for added functionality. A base unit includes an interface to a telecommunications network and at least one remote microphone in wireless communication with the base unit, enabling a carrier of the microphone to speak to a listener through the base unit over the telecommunications network. The base unit may form part of a telephone, and would preferably further include a docking station to receive the remote microphone along with electrical contacts causing the telephone to enter into a speakerphone mode when the remote microphone is removed for use. A speaker may either be provided in the base unit, or may be disposed in the housing of the remote microphone, for example, in the form of a headset. With multiple wireless microphones audio processing circuitry may be added for level control or microphone/speaker discrimination. The inventive apparatus may also form part of a video teleconferencing system, in which case one or more cameras would be employed to capture user images for transmission through the telecommunications network. As a further option, the system may transmit a wireless signal for transponding by the remote units, enabling the determination of distance to the base unit. Particularly with the use of separate frequencies, the location of each remote microphone may also be determined using multiple antennas and triangulation. By knowing distance and/or position, additional capabilities are possible by virtue of the

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- 20 invention, including automatic pan/tilt, zoom, focusing, and depth-of-field for single or multiple speakers.

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